



NEWS RELEASE

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FEBRUARY 10, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC WOMAN INDICTED FOR MARRIAGE FRAUD IN PAKISTANI IMMIGRATION CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., woman was indicted by a federal grand jury today for participating in a conspiracy to commit marriage fraud, in which American women were paid to marry Pakistani men so that they could become permanent residents of the United States.

Nina Lane Washington, 21, of Kansas City, was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that, from Aug. 1, 2002, to May 2003, **Washington** participated in conspiracy to enter into marriage for the purpose of evading federal immigration laws. According to the indictment, **Washington** and other women – citizens of the United States – were recruited and paid to marry Pakistani men who were in the United States. The purpose of those marriages, the indictment alleges, was to fraudulently establish a legal means in which to adjust the status of those Pakistani men to that of lawful permanent residents.

After their marriages, the indictment says, the Pakistani men and the American women submitted to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services a Form I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative) and Form I-485 (Application to Register Permanent Residence) in order to establish their status as a lawful permanent U.S. resident.

Today's indictment alleges that the women did not reside with the Pakistani men following their marriages, and that **Washington** and the other women received periodic payments prior to and following the marriages.

According to the indictment, **Washington** applied for a marriage license from the Jackson County, Mo., Recorder of Deeds on Aug. 29, 2002, and married a Pakistani citizen on

Aug. 29, 2002. On Sept. 16, 2002, **Washington**, in conjunction with the Pakistani male, allegedly executed the Form I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative). On Sept. 18, 2002, **Washington**, in conjunction with the Pakistani male, allegedly caused the Form I-130 to be filed with the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Washington** entered into a marriage with a Pakistani citizen for the purpose of evading immigration laws.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Washington** made a false statement with respect to a material fact in a Petition for Alien Relative form, when she claimed that she lived with a Pakistani citizen from July 2001 through Sept. 16, 2002.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow